



STATE OF MISSOURI
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 1254
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

OPINION NO.

1995.09.145

314/751-2020
1-800/392-8660

October 2, 1995

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At the September 19, 1995 meeting of the Missouri Ethics Commission, your request for an opinion was discussed. The following is in response to your questions:

1. *Has Missouri made any changes, either legislatively or in ethics rules, to bring Missouri law in compliance with this ruling?* No change has been made in the Missouri law.
2. *If not, does the Ethics Commission anticipate that such a change will be made soon, or will Missouri require that the issue be litigated again as regards the Missouri law?* The Missouri Ethics Commission cannot and does not speculate on actions of the legislature.
3. *In the event that a commercial publication should print a paid political advertisement without the proper disclosure, is the publication held liable for the violation under current law, or obliged to disclose who paid for the advertisement?* Your attention is drawn to section 130.031.8 which states "any person publishing, circulating, or distributing any printed matter relative to any candidate . . . or any ballot issue . . ." must disclose who paid for the matter. The person publishing the material would appear to be liable for failure to properly disclose the person or persons paying for the publication.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Marion N. Sinnett
Administrative Secretary

MNS:bd

NOTICE

Anyone examining this advisory opinion should be careful to note that an opinion of the Missouri Ethics Commission deals only with the specific request to which the opinion responded and only as to the law as it existed at the date of the response and cannot be relied upon for any other purpose or in any other manner.